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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15
SY-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 SSO-00 /086 W
----------079802 111030Z /14
P R 110928Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 400
INFO CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, KS, US, SOPN
SUBJ: DEMONSTRATIONS AT US EMBASSY

REF: SEOUL 2881

SUMMARY: EMBASSY EXPERIENCED TWO GROUPS OF DEMONSTRATORS, ONE LARGE AND ONE SMALL, MORNING OF APRIL 11. FOLLOWING LARGE DEMONSTRATION, DCM CALLED VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO PROTEST STRONGLY THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 0900 LOCAL TIME, APRIL 11, KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE (KNP) TOLD EMBASSY THAT APRIL 19 ASSOCIATION (4.19-HOE) AND TWO TRADE UNIONS WOULD VISIT CAPITOL AREA BETWEEN 1000 AND 1030. WE WERE TOLD THAT PERMIT IS NOT REQUIRED.

2. AT ABOUT 0930, WHEN INFORMATION THAT GROUPS WERE ON THEIR WAY HERE WAS RECEIVED, COMBAT POLICE WERE PLACED AT PARADE REST ALONG PERIMETER OF CHANCERY. JUST BEFORE 1000, TWO WELL DISCIPLINED COLUMNS OF WORKERS, NUMBERING
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NO MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED IN ALL, CONVERGED ON FRONT GATE OF CHANCERY, FROM BOTH SIDES OF SEJONG-NO (MAJOR AVENUE IN FRONT OF CHANCERY). AFTER CHANTING SLOGANS AND WAVING THEIR ARMS, AT 1015, CROWD MADE HALF-HEARTED RUSH AT FRONT GATE, BUT MASSED POLICE PREVENTED THEIR ENTRY INTO CHANCERY PARKING LOT. POLICE INITIALLY TRIED TO HERD DEMONSTRATORS INTO BUSES BUT, WHEN THEY

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RESISTED, POLICE PUSHED THEM BACK INTO STREET. THROUGHOUT DEMONSTRATION, POLICE ASKED THE GROUP LEADERS TO MOVE AWAY FROM FRONT OF EMBASSY, WHILE KEEPING TRAFFIC MOVING ON STREET BEHIND CROWD. AFTER POLICE WITHSTOOD DEMONSTRATORS' ONE CHARGE, THEY HERDED DEMONSTRATORS DOWN SIDE ALLEY TO BACK OF EMBASSY, WHERE WORKERS SHOUTED SLOGANS FOR ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES, BEFORE MOVING DOWN ALLEY OUT OF SIGHT. WE DID NOT SEE ANY INDICATION OF SYMPATHY BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS. AT ONE POINT, SOME POLICE USED THEIR CLUBS ON DEMONSTRATORS.

3. LARGE BANNERS HELD BY GROUP IDENTIFIED THEM AS MEMBERS OF CHEMICAL WORKERS' UNION, OF FEDERATION OF KOREAN TRADE UNIONS (FKTU). SIGNS HELD BY INDIVIDUALS IN GROUP READ "IS IT MORAL DIPLOMACY TO BUG THE LIVING ROOM OF THE CHIEF OF STATE?", "IF CH'ONGWA-DAE (ROK PRESIDENTIAL MANSION) WAS BUGGED, THEN PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE", ETC. AND THEIR SHOUTED SLOGANS INCLUDED "DISMANTLE THE BUGGING DEVICES INSTALLED IN CH'ONGWA-DAE".

4. WHILE ONLY SIGNS VISIBLE WERE THOSE OF CHEMICAL WORKERS, A FEW MEMBERS OF APRIL 19 ASSOCIATION WERE APPARENTLY IN CROWD. MAN IDENTIFYING SELF AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN O SONG-SOP HANDED TO EMBASSY GUARD A STATEMENT CALLING ON US A) TO HAVE US OFFICIALS RES-PONSIBLE FOR BUGGING TRIED IN KOREAN COURTS, B) TO
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APOLOGIZE TO KOREAN PEOPLE, AND C) TO PUNISH AMBASSADOR AND OTHER OFFICIALS INVOLVED. STATEMENT IS IN NAME OF MIN PYONG-CH'ON, CHAIRMAN OF APRIL 19 ASSOCIATION.

5. INTERNAL DEFENSE PROCEDURES WERE IMPLEMENTED. THERE WAS NO PENETRATION OF COMPOUND BY DEMONSTRATORS.

6. A SECOND, BRIEF DEMONSTRATION OCCURED OUTSIDE ENTRANCE TO EMBASSY PARKING LOT BETWEEN 1145 AND 1150. ABOUT FORTY MEMBERS OF FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS' EMPLOYEES' UNION CAME TO EMBASSY AFTER RALLYING AT FKTU HEADQUARTERS ON YOUI-DO. DEMONSTRATORS CARRIED ONLY ONE BANNER IDENTIFYING THEIR UNION, AND WORE HEADBANDS SAYING "PROTECTION OF SOVEREIGNTY". ALTHOUGH DEMONSTRATORS TOLD POLICE THEY WOULD BE PEACEFUL AND LEAVE AFTER SHOUTING SLOGANS, POLICE REFUSED TO LET THEM STAY, THEN HERDED THEM INTO BUSES WHEN THEY REFUSED A POLICE ORDER TO DISPERSE. DEMONSTRATORS REMOVED THEIR HEADBANDS AND LEFT BUS VOLUNTARILY.

7. ALL AFTERNOON PRESS APRIL 11 CARRIED STORIES OF LARGE DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY ON CITY PAGE (PAGE SEVEN),

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THREE WITH PHOTOGRAPHS. BOTH MORNING PAPERS CARRIED
PHOTOS OF MONDAY'S DEMONSTRATION (REFTEL). PAPERS ALSO
RPORT DEMONSTATRATIONS AT SIX HIGH SCHOOLS, ALL BUT ONE
IN SEOUL.

8. CH'OE T'AE-HO, PRESIDENT OF KOREAN DISABLED VETRANS
ASSOCIATION, AND THREE COLLEAGUES CALLED ON DCM FOR 90
MINUTES TUESDAY AFTERNOON TO REGISTER THEIR STRONG
FEELINGS AT PORTER STATEMENT. DCM STRESSED STATEMENTS
OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AND NOTED FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS
OF THIS NATURE COULD ONLY WORK AGAINST STRONG US-ROK
UNITY AND THUS BE DETRIMENTAL TO ROK SECURITY INTERESTS.

9. COMMENT: FOLLOWING LARGE DEMONSTRATION, ON INSTRUCTIONS OF
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AMBASSADOR, DCM CALLED VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS YUN TO LODGE
STRONG OFFICIAL PROTEST OVER THIS TYPE OF PUBLIC PRESSURE ON US
EMBASSY. HE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN
WORKING TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE AND WE LOOKED TO THE ROKG TO
EXPLAIN TO ITS PEOPLE THE TRUE FACT OF THE MATTER. DEMONSTRA-
TIONS OF THIS NATURE MERELY INDICATED THAT STATEMENTS BY
A FORMER US OFFICIAL WERE BEING GIVEN GREATER
CREDENCE THAN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OF THE US
GOVERNMENT.HE POINTED OUT THAT CONFRONTATION TACTICS
OF THIS NATURE BEAR THE VERY REAL POSSIBILITY OF HAVING
AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES. HE REQUESTED THAT EVER EFFORT BE TAKEN TO
SEE THAT ACCURATE FACTS WERE MADE KNOWN, WHICH WE WERE
SURE WOULD AMELIORATE THE SITUATION.

10. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH
CINC UNC VESSY, WHO UNDERTOOK TO MADE EMBASSY VIEWS
KNOWN TO HIS KOREAN DEFENSE COLLEAGUES. POLCOUNS ALSO MADE
SIMILAR CONFIRMING STATEMENTS TO MOFA AMERICAN BUREAU
DIRECTOR PAK SANG-YONG. SAME POINTS MADE TO KCIA. LATER SAME
MORNING PAK CALLED BACK TO SAY THAT MOFA, WHICH HAD ALREADY MADE
REPRESENTATION TO HOME MINISTRY ON THIS MATTER, WOULD MAKE
FURTHER EFFORT AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. IN THIS
APPROACH IT WOULD REQUEST THATPOSITIVE STEPS BE TAKEN
IMMEDIATELY TO SEE THAT SITUATION WAS RESOLVED IN AN
AMICABLE MANNER. HE LATER INFORMED POLCOUNS THAT
ADDITIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH WERE PLANNED HAD BEEN
DISBANDED.
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